

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08 ARA-06
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2964

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, UN

SUBJ: PREPCOM FOR SPECIAL UNGA ON DISARMAMENT: FIRST MEETING

1. SUMMARY: AT ITS FIRST MEETING MARCH 28, SPECIAL
SESSION PREPCOM ELECTED ARGENTINE PERM REP ORTIZ DE ROZAS
CHAIRMAN WHILE POSTPONING ELECTION OF OTHER MEMBERS OF BUREAU.
ORTIZ MADE UNCHALLENGED STATEMENT ON DECISION-MAKING PRO-
CEDURES, ASSERTING THAT NORMAL UNGA RULES OF PROCEDURE
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WOULD APPLY BUT THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO REACH
CONSENSUS AND THAT THE CHAIRMAN WOULD ASSUME A PERSONAL
RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS REGARD. ORTIZ ALSO DECLARED THAT
NON-MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE
IN PLENARY MEETINGS WITHOUT RIGHT TO VOTE. NEXT
MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 29; CURRENT SESSION MAY
CONCLUDE EARLY. END SUMMARY.

2. PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) HELD FIRST MEETING MARCH 28, FOLLOWING CAREFULLY CHOREOGRAPHED PLAN. SYG WALDHEIM OPENED MEETING WITH STATEMENT UNDERSCORING IMPORTANCE OF SPECIAL SESSION AS MEANS OF GIVING RENEWED IMPETUS TO MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND UN ACTIVITIES.

3. PERUVIAN PERM REP ALZAMORA, ON BEHALF OF LATIN AMERICAN, AFRICAN, AND ASIAN REGIONAL GROUPS, NOMINATED ARGENTINE PERM REP ORTIZ DE ROZAS AS PREPCOM CHAIRMAN. AFTER SECONDING STATEMENTS BY GDR AND NORWAY, ORTIZ WAS ELECTED WITHOUT OBJECTION.

4. ORTIZ NOTED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE REGIONAL GROUPS ON A TEN-MEMBER BUREAU, CONSISTING OF CHAIRMAN, EIGHT VICE-CHAIRMEN, AND RAPPORTEUR, WITH TWO MEMBERS FROM EACH REGIONAL GROUP. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT ONE GROUP HAD NOT YET SETTLED ON ITS TWO CANDIDATES AND THEREFORE POSTPONED ACTION UNTIL MARCH 29 MEETING. GROUP IN QUESTION IS EAST EUROPEAN GROUP. LAST-MINUTE ROMANIAN INSTRUCTIONS -- "FROM THE HIGHEST LEVEL" -- TO PRESS FOR A BUREAU SEAT PRECLUDED ANTICIPATED EE AGREEMENT ON NOMINATING YUGOSLAVIA AND POLAND. GROUP IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE TO REACH AGREEMENT TODAY.

5. WITHIN WEST EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP, EC-9 HAVE DECIDED NOT TO PRESS A CANDIDATE FROM THEIR RANKS AND AUSTRIA HAS WITHDRAWN ITS SHORT-LIVED CANDIDACY, LEAVING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONLY AUSTRALIA AS CONTENDER FOR SECOND WEOG SEAT (NORWAY HAVING THE FIRST). ASIAN GROUP HAS REPORTEDLY AGREED ON IRAN AND JAPAN. AFRICAN GROUP HAS AGREED ON EGYPT (FOR RAPPORTEURSHIP) AND NIGERIA. LATIN AMERICAN GROUP HAS DECIDED ON BAHAMAS AS ITS SECOND CANDIDATE. COMMENT: BUREAU'S COMPOSITION IS THUS LIKELY TO BE UNEXPECTEDLY "CONSERVATIVE," WITH MORE ACTIVELY RADICAL DELEGATIONS EVIDENTLY WAITING FOR POSTS AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ITSELF. END COMMENT.

6. ORTIZ, AFTER POSTPONING ELECTION OF BUREAU, MADE STATEMENT ON DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES FOR PREPCOM. HE STATED, AT THE OUTSET, THAT THE "RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE UNGA'S RULES OF PROCEDURE WOULD APPLY TO THE WORK OF THE PREPCOM." HE NOTED THAT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS HAD REVEALED A WIDESPREAD VIEW THAT, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE APPLICABILITY OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, "EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE SO THAT DECISIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS SHALL BE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS." HE ADDED THAT WHENEVER NECESSARY HE WOULD DO

HIS BEST AND USE THE POWERS OF HIS POST TO WORK TOWARD CONSENSUS. IF THESE EFFORTS FAIL HE WOULD REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE SO THAT DECISIONS COULD BE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF PROCEDURE. ORTIZ OFFERED THE FLOOR TO OTHER DELEGATIONS TO COMMENT ON HIS REMARKS, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT NONE WOULD CONTRADICT HIM. NO DELEGATION RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY, THOUGH SEVERAL EXPECT TO SPEAK ON THE SUBJECT LATER.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ORTIZ MAY HAVE OVER-EMPHASIZED THE POSSIBILITY OF RE COURSE TO VOTING, WE BELIEVE HIS STATEMENT SATISFACTORILY REFLECTED THE VIEWS OF MOST DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING OUR ALLIES, AND MEETS ESSENTIAL U.S. CONCERNS.

SOVIETS APPEARED SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL OBJECT PUBLICLY. ORTIZ'A FIRM ASSUMPTION OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEEKING CONSENSUS AND DETERMINING WHEN CONSENSUS IS NOT POSSIBLE IS LIKELY TO BE, ON BALANCE, ADVANTAGEOUS TO US. THUS, ASSUMING

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OTHERS COMMENTS ON HIS STATEMENT, WE WOULD PLAN TO MAKE A STATEMENT ASSOCIATING OURSELVES WITH HIS VIEWS. END COMMENT.

7. AT END OF MEETING ORTIZ MADE BRIEF STATEMENT THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT NON-MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN PLENARY MEETINGS OF PREPCOM, "WITHOUT THE RIGHT TO VOTE." THIS STATEMENT WAS NOT CHALLENGED, THOUGH SOME WESTERN NON-MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER IMPLICATION OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM "NON-PLENARY" MEETINGS. THEY APPEAR INCLINED, HOWEVER, TO TAKE THIS AS A BRIDGE TO BE CROSSED LATER.

8. ORTIZ CANCELLED AFTERNOON MEEING, SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING FOR TUESDAY MORNING. GENERAL EXPECTATION IS THAT THIS SESSION MAY BE CONCLUDED BY TUESDAY AFTERNOON, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAIRMAN'S WISHES. NO DELEGATION HAS EXPRESSED BY INTENTION OF RAISING AT THIS POINT TWO POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME ISSUES -- THE ROLE OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE ROLE OF THE SECRETARIAT -- WHICH MAY CONSEQUENTLY BE DEFERRED TO MAY SESSION. HOWEVER, IF EITHER IS RAISED, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT PRESENT SESSION'S WORK WILL BE WRAPPED UP QUICKLY.
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